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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05120 070919Z

21
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /048 W
---------- 112649
R 070826Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7851
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 6687
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG
SUBJ: PRESS ARTICLE ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT

1. AUGUST 7 JERUSALEM POST CARRIES WASHINGTON DATELINE ARTICLE BY BLITZER IN WHICH "SOURCES HERE WHO ARE CLOSE TO THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS" STATE THAT EGYPT'S LATEST PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT IN SINAI CONTAIN SOME SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS BUT REMAIN ESSENTIALLY UN-ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL. THESE "INFORMED SOURCES" SAY EGYPT IS INSISTING THAT ITS MILITARY FORCES BE PERMITTED TO ADVANCE UP TO THE WESTERN ENTRANCES OF THE PASSES FOLLOWING A SECOND STAGE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE AGREED TO DEMILITARIZE ONLY THE PASSES THEMSELVES. ISRAEL IS EXPECTED TO REJECT THIS EGYPTIAN DEMAND. IT IS PREPARED TO ALLOW ONLY AN EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVANCE INTO CURRENT BUFFER ZONE, THE SOURCES ADDED. THIS ISSUE IS ONE OF THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCKS HOLDING UP AN INTERIM AGREEMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO BLITZER ANOTHER PROBLEM AREA STILL UNRESOLVED IS THE QUESTION OF MANNING OF EARLY WARNING RADAR STATION AT UM HASHIBA. EGYPT IS STILL INSISTING,
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05120 070919Z

ACCORDING TO "THE SOURCES" THAT NO ISRAELI SOLDIERS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN AT THE STATION. EGYPTIANS
ARE PREPARED TO ALLOW US TECHNICIANS TO TAKE CONTROL OF
STATION HOWEVER. ISRAEL HAS PROPOSED THAT ITS RADAR
STATION AS WELL AS NEW EGYPTIAN ONE WEST OF PASSES BE
BOTH PLACED UNDER US SUPERVISION PROVIDED THAT ISRAELI
AND EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS COULD BE STATIONED THERE. THIS
ISRAELI PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED BY EGYPT.

3. BLITZER STATES THE ONLY MODIFICATIONS IN EGYPTIAN
POSITION WERE IN DRAWING ISRAELI LINE OF WITHDRAWAL
SLIGHTLY TO A MORE EASTERLY LOCATION THAN HAD BEEN
PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED. BUT THE EGYPTIANS ARE STILL
DEMANDING THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW FROM FOOTHILLS AT EXTREME
EASTERN END OF TWO PASSES, THOUGH THEY MAY NOW BE READY
TO PERMITISRAEL TO RETAIN CONTROL OF JEBEL GIDI OVER-
LOOKING THE ENTRANCE TO THE GIDI PASS.

4. ARTICLE THEN STATES THAT EGYPT WILL PERMIT ISRAEL
TO CONTROL AIRBASE AT BIR GIFGAFA. BLITZER SAID THAT
ISRAEL HAS ALREADY INFORMED US THAT CONSTRUCTION OF NEW
DEFENSE LINE IN SINAI COULD COST AS MUCH AS $150 MILLION
AND THAT US HAS PROMISED ISRAEL IT WILL HELP PAY FOR THIS.

5. BLITZER CONTINUES THAT "THE SOURCES" WERE MORE
OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING THE PROBLEM OF ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR
ACCESS TO THE ROAD ALONG THE ROAD OF SUEZ TO SHARM EL SHEIK.

6. ISRAEL AND EGYPT HAVE REACHED GENERAL AGREEMENT,
BLITZER SAYS, ON OTHER ASPECTS OF PROPOSED ACCORD
INCLUDING QUESTION OF DURATION. TWO SIDES HAVE ACCEPTED
PRINCIPLE OF THREE YEAR DURATION WHICH WILL INCLUDE
ANNUAL RENEWALS OF UNEF MANDATE. (EGYPT WILL PUT THIS IN
WRITING IN A LETTER TO US.)
TOON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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